

Applicant : Scott Montgomery
Appl. No. : 09/990,605
Examiner : Kambiz Abdi
Docket No. : 703602.6

Remarks

Claims 1, 3, 6-13, 15-21, 23-36, 38-45, 64-71, 73-86, and 88-94 and 156 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 13, 21, 30, 64, 77, and 156 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 6-13, 15-21, 23-36, 38-45, 64-71, 73-86, 88-94, and 156 have been cancelled. Claims 157 and 158 have been added. No new subject matter has been added.

Interview Summary

As an initial matter, the applicants would like to express their gratitude for the Examiner granting Mr. Joseph Liu, the prosecuting attorney, interviews on March 14, at 3:30pm (EST) and March 22, at 3:00pm (EST). During the interview, the pending claims and the cited prior art, U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2005/0209976 to Bailey ("Bailey") and U.S. Patent No. 6,005,945 to Whitehouse ("Whitehouse") were discussed, but no agreements were made.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 3, 6-13, 15-21, 23-36, 38-45, 64-71, 73-86, and 88-90 are rejected under 35 USC §103, as being obvious over Bailey in view of Whitehouse. These claims have been cancelled and the applicant submits that newly added claims 157 and 158 are allowable in light of the cited art.

As a general matter, although Bailey does disclose a postage metering system 110 that enables a user to print postage indicia and a tracking number on an envelope contemporaneously, Bailey does not disclose associating the tracking number with the postage indicia at a central computer system. See, e.g., para. [0025] of Bailey. In other words, there is no disclosure in Bailey of a central computer system that links the tracking number with the postage indicia within the system. This association at the central computer system enables the central computer system to utilize the tracking number to verify and validate the postage indicia. This is particularly cost-effective for the postal system because the tracking number is typically represented as

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a one-dimensional barcode as opposed to the two-dimensional barcode typically used for the postage indicia, and equipment to read one-dimensional barcodes are typically much cheaper than those for two-dimensional barcodes. This is neither taught, disclosed, or suggested in either Bailey or Whitehouse.

This feature is required in newly added claim 157. For instance, the system in claim 1 requires that the centralized postage-issuing computer system is configured to associate the tracking identification string with the unique postage indicium and store the association in a database. Thus, independent claim 157 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references. Further, the dependent claim 158 is likewise patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons the independent claims are patentable.

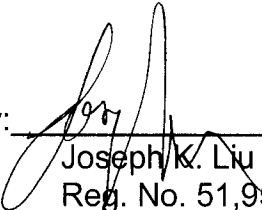
Conclusion

Prompt and favorable action on the merits of the claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the undersigned can be reached at (949) 567-6700.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 15-0665.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: 
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